

Bradford Core strategy Examination Response to homework item PSF044c from JA Thompson April 21st 2015

Edge Analytics continue to argue that population growth will be substantially larger than that projected by the ONS on the grounds that:

- The Unattributed Population Change (UPC) shown in the 2011 Census is entirely due to inward international migration that was not identified during the inter-census years
- Economic growth in Bradford will create sufficient jobs to not only stem the outflow of job seekers that has been a characteristic of the District for decades but will lead to net inflow of people.

Below is a summary of some of the evidence that both these claims are unfounded.

Unattributed Population Change

- Edge Analytics has presented no evidence at all to support their assertion that the observed UPC was due to international migration and has, therefore, arbitrarily added almost 1,000 international migrants per annum to the estimates produced by the ONS.
- Bradford is next to Leeds. Leeds had extremely high negative UPC. The most obvious explanation for much of the UPC is that people from Leeds moved to Bradford and didn't bother to update their details with their GPs
- Shifts in property prices would provide a strong motive for such moves. Prior to the crash property prices increased in both areas but the increase in Leeds took prices higher. Following the 2008 crash property prices they fell dramatically. But those in Bradford fell most both in absolute and relative terms; to a low of £92,773 in 2013/14 which was 76% of the Leeds average (data taken from the Land Registry website). Rental prices followed a similar pattern
- The ONS improved the way in which it captured migration data during the period between the 2001 and 2011 censuses. This resulted in it reducing the mid-year estimates of international immigration for Bradford during its retrospective re-profiling. The ONS is confident that the new methodology is more accurate than the old. There is no reason to believe that the ONS has got this wrong and Edge has got it right.

Employment Led Scenario

Edge Analytics has exaggerated the extent to which economic growth within the Bradford District is likely to lead to an increase in the size of the population beyond the increase projected by the ONS.

On page 13 paragraph 3.12 of: Leeds City Council Rebuttal Proof of Evidence in Appeal Reference APP/N4720/A/13/2208551, Town and country Planning Act 1990 Appeal by Miller Homes Site Land at Grove Road, Boston Spa, Leeds states that between 2001 and 2011 only 610 jobs per annum were created in Leeds. Most of this period falls in the years of economic boom that preceded the 2008

crash. Bradford would need to deliver substantially more jobs than this even to generate employment led housing demand. Some evidence that indicates this is extremely unlikely is provided overleaf under the heading 'Evidence'

In order to match Leeds current performance in terms of delivering economic benefits within the Leeds City Region Bradford will, among other things, need to reverse net outward commuting and become a net provider of jobs across the region. It will also need to be a net provider of jobs in order to fulfil one of the key functions of a city. One question that needs asking of Edge Analytics is whether, in producing their jobs-led housing requirements projections, they have assumed that the current high level of outward commuting will persist and if not, what commuting patterns they have factored into their projections. The danger is that in-commuters, and the need to provide employment for people living in communities across the wider region, may not have been factored into calculations which will have inflated housing requirements estimates.

Another question that needs asking is how many jobs per annum Bradford Council and Edge Analytics think, based on the current economic information, will be created in Bradford District across the plan period.

Evidence

- ONS Data from the 2011 Census showed that Bradford has a net outward commute of workers of 5,544. In order to become a net provider of employment in the region Bradford would need to generate this number of jobs.

Although the principal destination of commuters was Leeds the Census also showed net outward commutes to Craven, Harrogate, Wakefield and York.

- NOMIS Data for Mid 2013 (published June 2014) puts Bradford's job density (number of jobs expressed as a ratio of number of residents aged 16-64) at 0.67
- This compares unfavourably both with the national average and with every other Local Authority in the City Region bar Kirklees which has a density of 0.62. To reach the current job density of Leeds (0.90) Bradford would need to generate 57,431 jobs even before any more young people emerge onto the job market (Calculations based on data from Economy Briefing Note Bradford Labour Market Update 18th February 2015). It compares even less favourably with other northern cities
- ONS Census data 2011 shows that during the year preceding the census count net outward migration from Bradford to other parts of the UK was 2,854. If these rates were sustained over a fifteen year plan period that would be 42,810 people.

Bradford currently has both a high unemployment rate and a high economic inactivity rate

- NOMIS data February 2015 shows JSA Claimant numbers for Bradford at 12,229

- The Economy Briefing Note – Bradford District Labour Market Update 18th February 2015 puts the number of total unemployed at 24,500 which includes people seeking work who are unable to claim JSA as well as JSA claimants. This is 9.1% of the population. Comparisons are: Leeds City Region (9.4%), Yorkshire and Humber (8.1%), United Kingdom (6.5%).
- Bradford has a high economic inactivity rate 84,500

Bradford has a young population by comparison with other parts of the UK. The net natural growth in the working age population will be circa 27,800 in the period to 2030.

In addition, Bradford will need to provide jobs for the international immigrants already factored into the ONS population projections.